



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Summary December 19, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Juan Cardenas and introductions were made.

The meeting summary for November was tabled because a quorum was not present

#### **Update from Regional Director –**

- On behalf of Regional Director Catherine Matthews who was absent, Board Chair Cardenas provided updates.
- The Regional Director organized the kickoff event for the Gaithersburg Library renovation project. The directors of Public Libraries and the Department of General Services were in attendance along with community leaders and contractors.
- The Board hosted Mr. Leggett's Public Forum on the FY 13 Operating Budget on January 23, 2012 at the BlackRock Center for the Arts. Approximately 70 people attended.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity was celebrated on December 7 at the Wheaton location with County Executive Leggett and Councilmember Nancy Navarro attending.
- The County celebrated the purchase of 13 "green" buses for Ride On with ARRA funds.
- Board member Andres Aviles announced that Holy Cross Hospital held their groundbreaking for their new Germantown facility on December 8 with County Executive Leggett, Councilmembers and other dignitaries in attendance.
- Michael Subin from the Office of the County Executive informed the Board that the County Council had decided not to take a vote on the Mr. Leggett's proposed curfew bill. They have postponed it indefinitely.

#### **Update from the County Council -** No report.

#### **Guest Discussion: Gaithersburg East Master Plan; a Preliminary Discussion**

Guests: Steve Findley, Planning Department; Greg Ossont, Dept. of General Services; and Dave Hampton, Montgomery Village Foundation

- Mr. Findley explained the process to produce the scope of work. The kickoff for the master plan will be in May 2012 with the scope of the project going to the Planning Board in July. In January 2013, the preliminary land use recommendations are expected. The entire Master Plan project is estimated to take 2 and one half years. The 1980 plan was named the Gaithersburg and vicinity plan but was split when the great Seneca science city plan was initiated. The new area includes areas adjacent to Gaithersburg on the east side of I-270 mostly Montgomery Village and the airpark. Apparently the name change for the science city was prompted as an effort to differentiate the work from the city of Gaithersburg proper. Along the same reasons, the Gaithersburg East master plan will likely assume a new name. It was noted that the Planning Department does not make a decision on M-83 (Mid-County Corridor project); that is done by the Department of Transportation.
- Mr. Ossont provided background and his experience with planning and added that his office will monitor the master plan processes and implementation of the county Smart Growth policy.
- Mr. Humpton briefed the Board on Montgomery Village's Vision 2030 Report that highlighted the Village Shopping Center and the golf course. The Foundation will hold a worksession on January 9 to continue the planning process and he encouraged UCAB members to review materials and provide feedback.
- Board members asked questions and offered thoughts on the Montgomery Airpark, zoning changes, the working relationship of the Planning Department and the City of Gaithersburg, the future of the fairgrounds, future retail centers, Goshen Road widening project, and how to improve communication between the Department of Transportation, the Planning Department, and municipalities.

**Report from the Chairperson**

Mr. Cardenas mentioned some highlights provided from the Department of Finance and the Office of Budget and Management to the County Council on the county's fiscal situation.

**Committee and Liaison Reports** – No reports.

**Community Concerns**

Board member Joel Cockrell reported that there appears to be more parking spaces at the Germantown MARC station as a result of re-striping to get smaller spaces.

The Executive Office's Mike Subin acknowledged Board member Robert Nelson for publicly commenting on the BRT at recent meeting. It is important that citizens are heard so that policy is not determined just by engineers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Members present:* Juan Cardenas, Matthew Leakan, Cherian Eapen, Andres Aviles, Joel Cockrell, Robert Nelson, Oneil Ormsby, Gail Robinson, and Robert Thompson.

*Other Guests:* Michael Subin, Rosemary Arkoian, Bruce Goldensohn, Tiffany Arnold (Patch.com), Kasey Kaseman, Sharon Levine, and Richard Wright.

*Staff:* Nancy Hislop